THE TENNESSEE FARMER.

How much more delightful to an undebauched mind is the task of making improvements on the earth than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it, by the most uninterrupted career of conquests,"—WASHINGTON.

PUBLISHED BY EMMERSON & DEADERICK.] [J. F. DEADERICK, EDITOR

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TERMS.

THE TENNESSEE FARMER, is published monthly at $1,50 per annum, but $1 will be received if paid in advance. Payments made within three months of the commencement of the year will be considered in advance.

All subscriptions must commence with the year.

No subscriptions discontinued, but at the option of the Editor, until all arrearages are paid.

All letters on business in any way connected with the Tennessee Farmer must be addressed to Emmerson & Deaderick, Jonesborough Ten., and in order to ensure attention must be POST PAID.

According to the decision of the POST MASTER GENERAL, the Tennessee Farmer is subject only to newspaper postage, viz: one cent for each number within the State or within one hundred miles from Jonesboro', out of the State; one and a half cents to any other part of the U. States.

COMMUNICATIONS.

PLANTING TREES.

Editor Tennessee Farmer.

Dear Sir—It appears to me you would do much to serve the readers of your journal, were you to point out to them the usefulness to themselves and country, that would result from their planting as many walnuts on their premises this Fall as they might find convenient. Every man that has a farm, might plant one hundred in his fence corners and other places that would not injure his growing crops of any kind. Chestnut, walnut and mulberry,* I believe, do not injure the soil they grow on. By planting either of these in fence corners and taking proper care of them, in a few years they would answer for posts, when he might have post and rail fences, that would save much, both land and rails. The wild cherry, with proper care, will, in eight or ten years, be large enough for a post to put the ends of rails in. Supposing you could be the cause of their being planted, and put in a way for carefully raising ten thousand of these trees, you will do at least as much as the whole of those engaged in Tennessee in talking what some call Politics.

SAMUEL MARTIN.

Campbell's Station, Oct. 1838.

*The Locust might be added to the above—a most valuable tree which we believe is less injurious to crops which grow about it, than almost any other denizen of the forest. ED. TEN. FAR.

SPRING WHEAT.

Mr. Editor:—I notice in the last number of your paper, that you ask for information about the Italian Spring Wheat distributed amongst your subscribers at the close of the last winter. I comply with your request by giving you some account of the portion I received.

My share was between three half pints and a quart; but there was some dirt and several kinds of seeds, which I carefully picked out; for farmers should be especially careful to cleanse all imported seed before sowing, lest some new noxious weed be added to the goodly number which already infest our crops.—Separated from the dirt, &c., I had left 3 half pints of clean wheat, which I sowed on a thin piece of ground, on the 16th March, and scattered some old ashes over it. It came up after the "big snow" in March melted off, and seemed so thin on the ground that I did not expect it to do any good; but it tillered better than any wheat I had this season. The weather was dry and scorching hot from the time it commenced to head until it was ripe. I cut it on the 17th July, the day I finished my other wheat. It stood in the shock a few days, when the fowls began to destroy it, and I carried it to the barn and threshed it before it was perfectly dry, and consequently could not get it all out; but it turned out 22 quarts of clean wheat—a yield greatly beyond my expectation.

I noticed when it began to shoot that there were two kinds, a red and a white chaff.—The red was a short plump head, much like our common bearded wheat, and ripened 4 or 5 days sooner than the other. The white was a long head, and fewer grains in a row, has more the appearance of rye than common wheat, but larger heads. I have picked out a quart of the red kind, and design sowing it by itself next spring, as it seems to be an earlier and hardier variety than the other.

Some of my neighbors have tried the spring wheat with not as much success as I have had. But should I be spared to see another spring, I design to sow what I have and give it a fair trial. I am in hopes it will be found to possess some advantages over our ordinary kinds, which will justify its cultivation. Should such be the fact, I trust my brethren of the plough will soon realize the benefits of its introduction among us.

I am no writer, and this is my first attempt for the public. If you think proper you can give it to the public with my real name. I dislike fictitious signatures—they destroy much of the usefulness of what is written, especially, for agricultural papers.

ROBERT A. THOMPSON.

Washington county, Tenn., October 22nd, 1838.

We thank Mr. Thompson for his interesting account of his experiment with the Spring wheat.—The result is highly encouraging to the culturist of this variety of grain. The yield is at the rate of 29 1-3 to 1; and a like production on an acre seeded with a bushel and a peck, would be nearly 37 bushels—with a bushel and a half of seed, nearly 44 bushels. We have, however, heard of some experiments with this grain, which have terminated very differently. We should like to hear of all the cares both *pro* and *con;* and shall give them, impartially, to our readers. The kind of soil, time of sowing, manures and mode of treatment generally, should, in all cases, be particularly and clearly stated. We like Mr. Thompson's hint at the end of his communication, and hope our correspondents, generally, will adopt and act upon it.—ED. TENN. FAR.

GRASS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

I have about 20 acres of branch bottom, on which I have expended a great deal of labor in ditching, cleaning and trying to make it produce me corn, which it does very finely in *spots;* though requiring three or four times the labor of upland. A great portion of it is still too wet and cold in the Spring to ensure a stand of corn. I had, before I heard of your paper, purchased one and a half bushel of Herd's grass seed, which I intended putting on three acres of the above-mentioned land. The three acres I contemplated sowing, is dry enough to produce oats, which I will sow with the grass next Spring. Now, the rest of the ground, I did intend to throw aside as being too expensive to cultivate, having plenty of upland. Since reading your valuable little journal, and seeing the great value of Herds grass, (which I believe is the only kind of grass which will do any good at all in this country, probably from the absence of lime in our soil) I have an idea of putting the whole of it down in grass, if I was certain it would succeed.—The whole of it could be ploughed for oats with the exception of small miry spots in several places. Now, the information I want to obtain is, should I sow thick and procure a good stand, must I be compelled to keep under all the weeds for two or three years, until the seeds are extirpated; or will the Herds grass of itself complete the work sufficiently

The three acres I had intended for Meadow, I have in such a state of preparation, (having now a fine crop of yam slips on it) that I think I can easily keep the weeds under, and that much will be plenty for mowing, if it succeeds according to expectation.—The balance, I should want to pasture, but if I am compelled to keep all the wild and noxious growth from going to seed, I had better not sow it, except a small lot yearly, as I should not be able to keep it clean and attend my other necessary duties. But if you think the Herds grass will maintain its hold, and finally, with a little help, obtain supremacy, then I had better sow it all at once; otherwise, if I should let the ground lie out, it will take a good deal of work to put it in as good tilth as it is at present. Would you be so good as to give me your advice on

the subject? I said above that the Herds grass was the only kind that would do any good in this country. I may be wrong, as I do not speak from any experiments within my own knowledge, but merely from the opinion of others. WM. STEELE.

We would, by no means, advise our correspondent to abandon the cultivation of the wet bottom ground he describes; as it is, if properly managed, in all probability the most valuable land he possesses. The first step in the reclamation of such soil, is to drain it judiciously of all superfluous waters. A great deal has recently been written and published on this subject; and should our correspondent feel disposed farther to prosecute his system of ditching and draining, we would recommend to him some of the late valuable publications on that subject. At the office of the Farmer's Register—Petersburg. Va., he can procure Johnstone's treatise on Draining, (a valuable work) at a trifling cost If, however, our correspondent thinks he has expended enough upon his 20 acres of wet soil, we would by all means advise him to put down the whole of it in Herds grass, at any rate; and for his encouragement will state the fact that, on the waters of Lick creek, in the neighboring county of Greene, large tracts of swamp land have been reclaimed by this hardy grass, and converted into valuable meadows, so that soil which was before wet and miry, would, when well set with a sward of Herds grass, sustain a loaded waggon with perfect safety. We do not know to what extent this land was drained; but should suppose it was very imperfectly done, if done at all. We would, however, advise our correspondent, by all means, to drain the water off those spots where it is inclined to settle and stand. This done, we are inclined to the opinion that the Herds grass will extirpate every enemy, and take undisputed and luxuriant possession of the whole spot. Should the weeds, however, interfere, they should be cut in May and August.

ED. TENN. FARM.

Payments for the Tennessee Farmer from Sept. 28th, to Oct. 31st, 1838.

R. Ramsey 1; Wm. Dudley 3; S. C. Neville 2; R. Pollard 1; W. Bagwell 2; S. Smith 2, B. M. Williamson 1; S. McFall 1; W. Lockert 1; Col. G. D. Anderson 1; W. Harris 1; J. H. Randall 1; H. R. Foot 1; N. B. Green 1; Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey 1; J. Cowan 1; Maj. W. Swan 2 50; A. McMillan 1; H. B. Houston 1 50; J. Park 2 50; F. S. Heiskel 1 50; T. C. McCampbell 1 50; J. P. Beardon 1 50; Rev. J. Nutty 2; A. Hoss 1; W. Steel 5; A. David 1; A. Rives 1; Gen. J. W. Wyly 1; W. Dunlap 3; J. Price 1; J. A. Coffin 1; J. Howell 2; J. Hughes 1: J. W. Hale 1; J. Brewster 1.

MILK! MILK!!—We have never visited any place where the milk was so bad as that used in the city of New York. We used to think its inferior quality arose from its being adulterated by a mixture of chalk and water. But our New York city exchanges tell us differently. There are 18,000 cows in the immediate vicinity of the city, from whose milk the inhabitants are supplied; these cows are fed with 260,000 bushels of annually distilled grains in the city and neighborhood. These grains are corrupt and unhealthy; so much so, that they consume the flesh around the cow's teeth, so that all these cows becoming sickly in one year, are sent to the market to serve the people as a miserable substitute for beef, and 18,000 new and healthy cows are substituted in their place in one year, to share the fate of their predecessors. So poisonous is this milk, that out of 100 children fed with it, 49 die yearly. Thus 2,000,000 bushels of grain distilled, scatters disease among men and beasts. Our bread is destroyed, and a distilled destroyer sent into all the land. When will enlightened public sentiment put down the growing evil?—*Olive Branch.*

BIG HOG.—The Cincinnati News gives an account of a large hog belonging to Mr. J. W. Bell, of Fayette county, Indiana. Dimensions as follows:

	Feet.	Inches.
Length from end of snout to end of tail	8	9
Height	4	2
Circumference of the arm	1	2
Girth	6	9
Knee	0	11
Hoof	7	10 1-2
Throat	4	0
Tail	0	8
Length and breadth of ear	14 by	9
Length of tusks	0	8

Supposed weight 1,400 pounds.

The hog would have weighed, when fully fattened, it is supposed, 2,000 pounds.

BEET SUGAR MANUFACTORY.—The Newburyport, Mass. Herald states that the Beet Sugar Company of Northampton are getting their buildings ready to operate on a large scale. They pay $5 a ton for beets, and some of the farmers have raised 20 tons to the acre. The manufacture is carried on upon the German principle of drying, grinding, and making of the powder a strong decoction of sirup for crystallizing.

TENNESSEE FARMER.

Jonesborough, November 1, 1838.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS NO. 2.

We resume our notices on this subject, and begin with the

CORN CRUSHER.

Accurate experiments have amply proved that the corn cob contains a large proportion of valuable nutriment. In our methods of feeding stock, this is, generally, all thrown away. It might indeed be saved by soaking. boiling or steaming the cob (either with the grain on or after shelling,) either of which operation renders it sufficiently soft to be edible by horses and cows, and adds greatly to to its nutritious and healthful properties. As so large a proportion, however, of our corn is fed to our hogs, it becomes a point of great importance to give the cob some preparation by which it may aid in making our pork.—And here the corn and cob crusher offers its services most opportunely, involving the additional advantage of preparing the grain as well as the cob, and thereby saving the immense waste which annually occurs in feeding our corn to stock in the ear and without preparation Subjected to the operation of the corn crusher and then ground in the grist-mill, there is no extravagance in the calculation that 100 bushels of corn would go as far and produce as much pork, as 200 bushels fed in the ear, and the cob thrown away—especially if the meal be afterwards cooked or fermented before using. If this be true (and none will doubt it who have given the subject proper attention) would not *a little* enterprize, here, accomplish *a great deal* in the way of economy and profit in the use of this valuable grain.

Several machines have been invented for crushing corn. The best, we believe, is an implement invented and patented by Mr Jordan of Roane county in this State, which is noticed at page 228, vol. 1, of this work.—It was exhibited by the inventor, in this county, some two years ago; and whilst almost every other patent machine, good, bad and indifferent, had heretofore attracted great interest and attention among us, this very valuable invention, as we believe it to be, met with but little encouragement, and no purchasers that we are aware of. It crushed, very rapidly, corn and cob, reducing the whole to something like small hominy; can be propelled by hand, but is better adapted to horse or water power; and was offered for sale at $15.

THE THRESHING MACHINE.

One of the most laborious operations of farming is the ordinary method of threshing grain It is not every farm, however, the products or the profits of which will justify the expense of erecting machinery to substitute this labor. But to the farmer whose grain crops are annually large and abundant, such a machine would seem to be as obviously desirable as the sickle at harvest, or the plough and harrow in Spring and Autumn. With this facility for the disposal of a heavy crop of grain, the farmer would, no doubt, be stimulated to the production of larger quantities—a strong argument for the threshing machine, especially when connected with the reflection that every acceleration of a heavy job in the toils of the farm, is so much money in the farmer's pocket, and so much time redeemed for the more perfect performance of other pressing and profitable work.

A great variety of machines have been invented for threshing grain. Several have been in use in this country. The one known here as the Harman patent, is the best which has come under our personal observation.—We have indeed read of greater exploits in threshing grain than it performs. But it is sufficiently perfect for all ordinary practical purposes, as it will thresh wheat, with a two horse power, a little faster than one wagon, under ordinary circumstances, can haul it from the field. The cost of this machine is $45, the horse power about $55.

THE ROLLER.

This implement recommends itself alike by its simplicity and cheapness, and its great intrinsic value in perfecting the work of the

plough and harrow, and performing other important offices on the farm. We need not dwell upon it here, however, as it has been already noticed in our July number of the present year, at page 300, to which the reader is referred. That article however omits the mention of one of its most important uses.—Not only does it pulverize the clods left by the plough and harrow upon the surface of the soil, but it also presses the earth compactly about the seeds which have been sown, causing them to vegetate with more certainty, and preventing their freezing out during the frosts of winter—a highly important desideratum in all Fall-sown crops.

Any farmer who can saw a round log in two, and set in a frame to revolve there on a gudgeon in the centre of each end, can construct a Roller. The following directions, however, which we find in the 4th Vol. of the Cultivator, will enable the farmer (where the materials are at hand as they frequently are on the farm, or if not, can be easily procured) to construct an excellent article, at a very trifling expense.

"*Hollow Wooden Rollers* may be constructed by most farmers at a very moderate expense for iron work. Take three cast off fore wagon or other small wheels; place two of them six feet apart and the other in the centre; fix an iron axle through the naves of each, so as to connect them together and serve to draw by; upon these strong planks, cut very narrow, and bevilled at the edges, are to be firmly nailed lengthwise until the roller is completely covered. It may then be mounted in the usual manner. If additional weight is required, as will generally be the case, it should be hung on the axle within the hollow. The draft of a roller is lessened by increasing its diameter; for it has been proved, that the same strength which is required to draw a roller of half a ton weight, over a height of two inches, when the diameter of the cylinder is one foot, will suffice to draw rollers of 15 and 18 1-2 cwt., when their diameters are respectively two and three feet."

THE DRILL BARROW.

This article is invaluable in the cultivation of Roots; and may be pleasantly and profitably used in sowing many seeds in the garden. In our September number, at page 332, will be found a notice of this implement, with directions for its construction, which renders any farther remarks upon it unnecessary here.

IMPROVED HARROW.

An implement of this character has been constructed, much after the ordinary shape, with the single exception that the middle beam consists of two pieces of timber connected together by strong hinges, admitting either side to rise and fall at pleasure. The advantages of this contrivance are that the harrow adapts itself better to uneven ground, and admits a nearer approach to stumps and other obstructions, the one half being held up perpendicularly (or thrown entirely over on the other half) while the implement passes close to the obstruction without materially varying its course, and the inverted half being brought down again immediately after passing, but very little ground escapes its operation, as is frequently the case with the common harrow.

Expensive improvements have, also, been made on this implement, in *Conklin's Revolving Press Harrow*, which performs its work with great rapidity and effect, substituting, in fact, the labor of a second ploughing, by effectually stirring the earth, and thoroughly pulverizing it. It is also highly useful in scarifying old or sward-bound meadows, loosening the soil and covering the new grass seeds which may be sown to renovate the crop. It is highly esteemed; and is sold, in its improved form, at $60.

We might protract this article, by notices of various other implements, such as the Mowing Machine, the Stump Extractor, the Clover Machine, Corn Husker and Sheller Hay Spreader, Lime ditto, Seed Sower, Corn Planter, &c., &c. But those already noticed must suffice for the present, as we shall not fail, from time to time, to note such improvements in farming implements as, coming under our observation, we may deem of interest to our subscribers.

In relation to agricultural implements generally, from the Horse Power Reaping

Machine, which costs $150, down to the little hand hoe, which is had for 50 cents, it is a point of the first importance to have them, in the first place, strongly and skillfully constructed of the best materials, and then always kept in good working condition. Edged tools should be kept sharp, cogs and gudgeons faithfully oiled, and every weak or decaying part of an implement carefully guarded or promptly repaired. A disregard of these indispensable precautions will, oftentimes, occasion, in bad work and breaking, twenty times the expense and loss of time and labor which would have been necessary to repair the instrument in the first place, and put it in perfect order for doing its work effectually. There is no worse economy than to hurry off to work with a dull or imperfect tool, merely for the sake of saving the little time it would require to sharpen it, or a trifling additional cost in its purchase — In encouraging the farmer, therefore, to make, himself, some of the more simple implements of his calling, we would not be understood as desiring him to put up with an inferior tool, in any one of the various departments of his labors. If he finds that he is not equal to the construction of a good article, he should not attempt it at all. The wisest economy, in such a case, would undoubtedly be to pay a reasonable price to some one else who can make it well and skilfully. But as our people are remarkable for their readiness in invention and mechanics, we have no doubt that many farmers may be found, throughout the country, who can do some parts of plain carpenter work connected with their calling, as judiciously, as the master workman himself. Indeed, intelligent Europeans, who visit this country, express their great surprise at the exceeding ingenuity of our people, the comparative independence of the several trades and callings on each other, and the ready resources which every one finds in himself in almost any emergency. They have, frequently, found our plain famer "a jack of all trades," to use a somewhat uncouth saying, and pretty good anthem all; while, in their own country, if a nail has to be driven the carpenter must come and do it, and if a pig is to be killed on the farm the butcher is sent for, sometimes three or four miles, to perform the mysterious operation.

CONVENTION OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES AT LEBANON.

We give place to the following notice, with pleasure, and hope the proposed convention may be numerously attended. To this end, we trust, our Societies in East Tennessee and throughout the State, will not fail to appoint and commission their delegates without delay.

We do not regard this movement as, at all, interfering with the more general Convention suggested by a correspondent in our last number. On the contrary, the meeting at Lebanon may be made most propitiously introductory to the assemblage of that body; and we doubt not will discuss the propriety of the proposition, and yield it its cordial countenance and support. The Lebanon Convention might also, (and we trust will,) arrange the details of the general Convention, and take the responsibility of appointing the time and place, should it be thought desirable to make any change of the proposition of our correspondent, who, we have no doubt, will cheerfully submit the whole to its discretion. We have thought that a more genial season of the year might be selected than the month of February, which is generally unpropitious for travelling.

We are sincerely pleased with this movements—evincing the determination of, at least, some amongst us to make a judicious effort for the promotion of our agriculture.—And if none can gainsay the sentiment of Washington, that *there is "no pursuit in which more real and important services can be rendered to any country, than by improving its agriculture,"* then, indeed, may the actors in this enterprize be, justly, regarded as genuine patriots and public benefactors, although their triumphs may be totally unaccompanied with that captivating splendor

of exploit, and the imposing "pomp and circumstance" of worldly glory, which so entirely monopolize the applause of the injudicious multitude.

CLINTON COLLEGE, Oct. 1st, 1838.

Dear Sir:—By a resolution of the Smith County Agricultural Society, it is made my duty to give notice to the public, that there will be a Convention of all the Agricultural Societies in the State, at Lebanon, Wilson county on the third Monday in November next. And by the same resolution, it is my duty to invite, in the name of our Society, all the Agricultural Societies of Tennessee, to send delegates to said Convention; the object of which, is to take into consideration and to *adopt such measures as may then be thought necessary to the promotion of Agriculture in Tennessee.*

Among other matters, which our Society will propose, for the consideration of the Convention, are the two very important ones following, viz:

1st. The propriety of *uniting* all the Agricultural patronage and talents of our State, in the support of one, only, Agricultural paper in Tennessee, in order that it may serve as a point of concentration and exchange of all the useful knowledge among us, while it grows into respectability abroad. But in the abscence of such concert, there will no doubt grow up in our State many little papers to divide and scatter our patronage and talents, so as to destroy almost entirely the value of Agricultural journals among us. Once, the difficulty with us, was to get an Agricultural paper at all; but now the spirit of improvement is such, that the great difficulty is to prevent so many papers from existing, as will scatter the patronage and talents of the State, and destroy their value. Some general vehicle, a common stock paper, to which all may communicate, and from which all may draw useful knowledge, is now the great desideratum. Your paper is the oldest, and as yet has been far the most useful in the State, and knowing your sentiments, we doubt not but your efforts will be contributed to the purposes of the proposed Convention.

2nd. We shall propose the formation of an Agricultural Boar d for the State of Tennessee, which shall be the light, the organ and guardian of the Agricultural interest. It is intended that the Board, or some other association, shall be formed for the *domesticating, the taming and familiarizing of science* to the garden, the field, the meadow and the pasture. It is desirable to get up such an association, as will bring all the lights of science and experience to shine with mid-day brilliancy upon all departments of Agriculture. You will please give this notice a place in the Tennessee Farmer.

Respectfully, your ob't sv't,

FRANCIS H. GORDON.

C. S. Smith co. Ag. Soc.

Mr. Deaderick, Ed. Tenn. Farmer.

AN APOLOGY.

We owe an apology to our readers, and more especially to the respected author, for the abrupt terminationof an extract in our last number, from the address of Judge Bramlett before the Agricultural Society of Giles county. We had marked a much larger portion for insertion, which was inadvertently omitted in making up the form, and the paper which contained the address being now mislaid, we can make no farther reparation than the above statement.

NEW PUBLICATION.

We have received the first number of a new work called "The Cumberland Farmer," published, monthly, in quarto form, by J. A. Browning & Co., Gallatin, Tenn., at one dollar per year. As its name indicates, it is intended to be a co-worker in the same good cause to which our monthly sheet is devoted. The specimen before us has a neat appearance, and contains a number of interesting articles; and we hope the publication may prove to be a useful one.

☞We have again to apologize to our correspondent for the omission of our article, duly prepared and handed to the printer in reply to inquiries relative to the preservation of roots. It has been once more overlooked, and indeed mislaid, greatly to our regret—as the season will be past before the issuance of another number when it would be available.

THE SILK CULTURE.

It is surprising that more of our people do not engage in this business, and it can only be accounted for on the ground that they are already profitably employed in some other business, or else will not take pains to inform themselves of the simple and profitable manner in which this new business may be conducted.—We saw, on Wednesday, at the house of Mr. Joshua Toppan, in Marlborough street, several thousand silk-worms, who have been busily employed all this week in spinning their cocoons. A considerable quantity of the silk, reeled last season, was also shown us by the lady of Mr. Toppan, on which a premium was obtained at the exhibition of manufacures last year, and it was a truly beautiful article. This silk was all the produce of the white mulberry, except a small portion, which was easily distinguished by a wire feeling, and which was the produce of the common black mulberry.—This last is no doubt quite as good for sewing-silk as any other, but probably could not to so good advantage be applied to any other purpose.

The process of rearing and feeding the worms, and even that of reeling the cocoons, is so simple and easy, and would form such a desirable and pleasing employment for children and females, that we cannot but repeat our surprise, that the Yankees, who are ever on the alert to turn an honest penny, do not make greater progress in this business.

The value of American silk exceeds the imported raw silk, not only in lustre, but strength of fibre, and the small comparative waste in the manufacture; and is probably 25 per cent. in value over the imported article; andyet it has been satisfactorily demonstrated in Connecticut and other parts of the country, that raw silk can be produced at a cost of $1 50 per pound, which will readily sell at from $4 to $7 per pound. The quality and value of the silk depending on the skill and perfection in reeling.

Some cultivators assert that an acre of land planted with the Morus Multicaulis, will give sufficient food the second year for a million of silk worms, and as three thousand cocoons make one pound of silk, one million will make 333 1-3 pounds of silk. It will be seen at once from this, that the profit must be very handsome, even if we suppose those commencing the business should not be able to produce the silk so cheaply as is done in Connecticut, where they have more experience in the matter.

An individual of high respectability, in New York, is stated, at the request of the editor of the Cultivator, to have made thorough experiments for the purpose of ascertaining the certain profits of an acre. He made 100 pounds of raw silk from an acre the first year of setting out the Chinese mulberry, and by strict economy of time labor and expense, although he gave three dollars per week and board to two experienced females, as teachers in gathering foliage, feeding worms and reeling silk, he found that his silk cost him only two dollars the pound and estimates his silk at least six to seven dollars the pound, on account of the excellency of the reeling.

We are firm believers in the success of the silk culture in the United States, and believe it entirely unnecessary that twelve or fifteen millions dollars per annum should be paid for this article to foreign nations. As to what may be said against it by theorists, we have stubborn facts to oppose, and those who are disposed to be discouraged by imaginary difficulties, we would refer to the newspapers and pamphlets published the time when the cultivation of the cotton plant was commenced in the United States, to see how much was said and written to prove the views of the cotton planters a mere chimera. The result has shown who was correct; and if the silk raisers proced as steadily and resolutely as did the planters of cotton, a similar success will crown their efforts. Their exertions will be rewarded by fortunes to themselves, and a lasting benefit to their country.

In speaking of Mr. Topman's silk growing experiments, in which he engaged rather as an amusement, than a source of profit, we are disposed to say a word concerning his grounds. On looking over them we were forcibly reminded of the remark of some one we believe it was Mr. Jefferson, that ten acre fields are the most profitable. Here on six acres of land, Mr. T. obtains a handsome living, with comparatively little labor, and free from the numberless vexations which attend the merchant, the mechanic and the manufacturer at every step. He not only maintains his family in comfort and independence, but he has abundance of leisure during a large portion of the year, has a well stocked library, takes a daily paper and several weekly and agricultural journals, besides periodicals; and we doubt not, (though it would have been impertinent to ask the question) lays up money besides all this. Unfavorable as have been the two or three last seasons, he has raised his own breadstuffs, and a supply of ve-

getables, sufficient to pay all household expenditures. This year he has, we should judge, about an acre and a half of wheat which is well advanced and will no doubt yield him 40 bushels, an acre of corn which will produce 30 or 40 bushels, an acre of potatoes, and nearly as much devoted to oats, the remainder is occupied by garden vegetables. And yet this land is by no means in a high state of cultivation; and some additional labor and a trifle more of expense would easily double the aggregate of the crops.

When six acres of land will thus sustain him, where is the man, who so long as God shall bless him with health, may not smile at all the combinations of adverse fortunes, and treat them as but the small dust of the balance? Why need we then bear and feel so much of poverty? It is not because there is not sufficient for all; but because society is not yet properly organized, and the social system still stands in need of great reform.

Newburyport Herald.

THE NOBILITY OF LABOR.

By Orville Dewey.

So material do I deem this policy—the true nobility of labor, I mean that I would dwell on it a moment longer, and in a larger view. Why, then, in the great scale of things is labor ordained for us? Easily, had it so pleased the Great Ordainer, might it have been dispensed with. The world itself might have been a mighty machinery for the production of all that man wants.

The motion of the globe upon its axis might have been going forward without man's aid, houses might have risen like an exhalation,

> 'With the sound
> Of dulcet symphonies and voices sweet,
> Built like a temple;"

gorgeous furniture might have been placed in them, and soft couches and luxurious banquets spread, by hands unseen; and man clothed with fabrics of nature's weaving, rather than imperial purple, might have been sent to disport himself in those Elysian palaces. "Fair scene!" I imagine you are saying: "Fortunate for us had it been the scene ordained for human life!" But where, then, tell me, had been human energy, perseverance, patience, virtue, heroism?

Cut off with one blow from the world; and man-kind had sunk to a crowd of Asiatic voluptuaries. No, it had not been fortunate. Better that the earth be given to man as a dark mass, whereupon to labor.—Better that rude and unsightly materials be provided in the ore-bed and in the forest for him to fashion to splendor and beauty. Better were it, not because of that splendor and beauty, but because the act creating them is better than the things themselves; because exertion is nobler than enjoyment; because the laborer is greater and more worthy of honor than the idler.

I call upon those whom I address to stand up for the nobility of labor. It is Heaven's great ordinance for human improvement. Let not that great ordinance be broken down.

What do I say? It is broken down; and it has been broken down—for ages. Let it then be built up again; here, if any where, on these shores of a new world—of a new civilization. But how, I may be asked, is it broken down! Do not men toil, it may be said? They do indeed toil, but they too generally do it because they must.

Many submit to it, as, in some sort, a degrading necessity; and they desire nothing so much on earth as escape from it. They fulfil the great law of labor in the letter, but break it by spirit. To some field of labor, mental or manual, every idler should hasten as a chosen coveted field of improvement.

But so he is not impelled to do, under the teachings of our imperfect civilization. On the contrary, he sits down, folds his hands, and blesses himself in idleness. This way of thinking is the heritage of the absurd and unjust feudal system, under which serfs labored, and gentlemen spent their lives in fighting and feasting. It is time that this opprobrium of toil were done away.

Ashamed to toil art thou? Ashamed of thy dingy workshop and dusty labor-field; of thy hard hand, scarred with service more honorable than that of war, of thy soiled and weather-stained garments, on which mother nature has embroidered, mist, sun and rain, fire and steam her own heraldic honors? Ashamed of those tokens and titles, and envious of the flaunting robes of imbecile idleness and vanity? It is treason to nature, it is impiety to Heaven; it is breaking heaven's great ordinance. Toil, I repeat, toil, either of the brain, of the heart or of the hand, is the only true manhood, the only true nobility!

Suffer not your spirit to be subdued by misfortunes; but, on the contrary, steer right onward, with a courage greater than your fate seems to allow.

From the Farmers Cabinet.

CONSTRUCTION OF ICE HOUSES.

The July number of the Farmers' Cabinet contains a request for some one to furnish an essay on Ice Houses, as I have some experience on that subject, I freely communicate my knowledge for the benefit of the public.

I have erected several houses principally for the purpose of supplying the citizens of Wilmington with ice; and find the larger the house the better it will keep; and that those constructed under ground are much preferable so those built in the open air; and further that a wet, humid atmosphere is more destructive on ice than hot weather. In making an ice house you first dig a cellar in the side of a hill the dimensions that you wish to make your house; the only rule to observe in this operation is, to make the cellar so that it will not hold water. If the situation is sandy, or if you come to a vein of sand about the time you arrive at the proper depth, no further care will be necessary, but if you find a still clay or earth of any kind impervious to water, you must make an outlet or abandon the place.—This outlet may be constructed in several ways, if on the side of a hill, dig a drain and make it air tight by an inverted syphon; or the water may be drained into a well and pumped out, or you may sink a small shaft in the bottom of the house until you come to sand, and fill it up with stone. When the cellar is finished the walls may be made of stone, brick, or wood, to suit the convenience of the builder, always leaving a space of 8 or 10 inches between the sides of the building and the earth, to fill in with tan, charcoal, straw, cornstalks, or any other non-conductor you can get, but tan is by far the best article yet known.

Where expense is no object the cellar may be made round, and the sides of brick raised a few feet above the ground and covered with zinc, sheet iron, or tin, and some fancy ornament for the top.

A house 9 feet square in the clear, and 9 feet deep will hold 27 cart-loads, which will be sufficient for a large family. It may be erected in a few days by any handy laboring man, with the materials that can be found upon almost any farm. Dig a cellar, say 10 feet square, and 10 feet deep, then cut small timber from the woods the proper length, and build them up in the cellar after the plan of an American wooden house, keeping the space between the logs and the earth well filled with straw; raise the building 2 or 3 feet above the surrounding ground so that the water will not get into the house, thatch the roof, and leave the gable ends, open, for ice houses are often made too close at top, cover plentifully with straw and you will have an abundance of ice through the season.

If the bottom of your ice house is clay or hard earth of any kind, it will be better to put in a few loads of coarse sand previous to filling the house. There is some difference of opinion among people acquainted with keeping ice in regard to the construction of the upper part of the building, whether there should be a tight floor over the ice or not.—My opinion is in favor of covering the ice well with straw and leaving the house ventilated at the gable ends, at least so open that the gas escaping from the ice will have an opportunity of passing away.

SUBSCRIBER.

It is rather late in the season to talk about the construction of ice houses; but as the job is not a tedious one, and as this exquisite and cheap luxury would seem to be an almost indispensable appendage to the farm which is not supplied with pure water or the cold spring-house, a brief notice of the subject here may not be out of place.

The plan proposed in the above article is no doubt a good one, but it may be somewhat simplified and improved. We should prefer having the pit somewhat deeper, say 12 or 15 feet—decreasing in diameter as you descend, and at the floor about four feet square. Then get strong poles from the woods, take off the bark and instead of building *a pen* from the floor up, lay them *up right* along the sides of the pit, close together, and long enough to reach from the floor to the surface of the surrounding soil.—The advantages of this simple contrivance are its extreme cheapness, and that should the ice begin to melt at the surface, the water will not be compelled to course down its sides, thus melting more and more of it as it travels down, but will seek the under side of the poles, and without further injury to the ice find the floor of the pit. If the plans suggested, in the article above, for draining the water which may chance to settle at the bottom, are not adopted, a cavity must be made in the floor large enough to receive a hogshead which should be placed in it to prevent the sides from caving in. Split timber must then be laid across the floor—that and the sides covered with straw—a log frame should then be raised a few feet higher to receive the roof, which may be of shingles or thatch—the gables closed, and the result is an ice house which, if well constructed, our personal observation justifies us in saying will keep ice the year round.—ED. TENN. FAR.

"MORUS MULTICAULIS."

This popular shrub appears to have created much discussion and interest in this city and vicinity for the last fortnight.

The feeling may be expressed as in a state of high fever. Some *very* prudent and cautious persons have pronounced it for months past like a "merino speculation," but the merino excitement, never raged half so universally as does this preliminary of the silk Culture.

We have received many letters asking for numerous details respecting price, mode of culture, sellers, silk worm eggs, &c. &c. &c. which to answer correctly would occupy a large portion of our time. We have given applicants the Doctor's advice to a valetudinarian, "*take advice*," subscribe for the S. E. Post, the Silk Grower, published in this city, by Charles Alexander, or the Silk Culturist, published by W. C. Comstock, at Weatherfield, Conn. to obtain the current news, details, of culture, and instructions generally.

The sales of mulberry trees have been very brisk for weeks past, even to the amount of several hundred thousand dollars. Many culturists who were disappointed in obtaining trees last year—or postponed purchasing on the ground, that plants would be a drug and "as cheap as a broom" this year, have now taken "time by the forelock," and bought largely at higher prices than when they were "so very scarce dear" six and nine months ago.

The prices are so various that it is nearly impossible to give exact estimates. Buyers say the price is 50 cents per tree,—the sellers, that it is 75 cents.

Within a few days trees have been offered at 15 cents, 17 cents, and 20 cents per foot, the root with one inch of stalk being counted as one of the feet, and some fine plants have been sold at $1,00 and $1,50 the tree. The general belief is, that nearly all the trees for sale within 40 miles of this city have been sold. The growers generally choosing to keep a large stock on hand for seed the ensuing season; and well they may like to continue propagating, for in many instances their profits have reached 1000 per cent. while others who have not been so fortunate in their cultivation or soil, have netted 500 per cent, within the last six months.

To those of our friends who are disposed to go permanently into the cultivation of silk, we would say, "Do not depend upon the multicaulis *alone*." Although it will probably be a good article for production and a sale for two or three years longer, yet you ought to supply yourselves with hedges of the White Mulberry, the improved Alpine Mulberry, or the Broussa, which are hardy plants, and will always prove valuable standard trees; and some of these varieties have nearly as much foliage as the Multicaulis itself.

The culture of silk, although it may not produce such immense profits as the temporary growing of the Mulberry, will no doubt be a *lucrative* and *permanent* business, giving pleasant and profitable employment to the infirm, the females and the children, who have at present little to do, or a very small remuneration for light labor. We have been assured by a practical man, that $300* per acre may be depended on, as the proceeds of proper feeding of Silk Worms and sewing silk. Although this may be too liberal an estimate, (at least till experience shall guide enterprise,) yet from a calculation of the number of cocoons which may be raised from an acre of ground, planted with hedges of mulberries, it would not appear extravagant.

Do not attempt to feed Silk Worms till you are sure of having twice as much foliage as they will be calculated to require. Feed a few at first—experiment—and when you are acquainted with the wants of the worm, and the treatment required—than "go the whole figure." No danger of over-stocking the silk market, until our population shall extend beyond the Rocky Mountains.

*This (if not a typographical error) is an exceedingly low estimate.—Ed. Tenn. Far.

From the Farmers Cabinet.

APPLE PUMICE.

An enemy may be made a friend by proper treatment.

Those who desire to destroy elder bushes, or any other troublesome trees, shrubs, or plants can accomplish it most effectually by spreading pumice from the cider press about them; valuable fruit trees have often been killed by suffering apple pumice to remain on the ground near them, and a friend of mine, taking the hint from losing some fine fruit trees in this way, has made the article subserve a useful purpose in destroying hedgerows that it was difficult, yet desirable, to get rid of. It is probable that it is the acid communicated to the soil which renders it so destructive an agent. The effect of the acid may be counteracted, and the soil again rendered productive by the application of lime or ashes. Q.

THE ELDER—FOR FARMERS AND HORTICULTURISTS.

Mecklenburg, N. C. August 24, 1838.

Mr. Editor,—Should you consider the following observations and experiments, worthy a place in your valuable book, they are at your service. They relate to the effects of the Elder:

In the preservation of crops of wheat, from the yellows, and destructive insects.

In preventing blights and their effects on fruit, and other trees.

In preserving cabbage plants from being eaten or damaged by caterpillars and

In saving crops of turnips from the fly, &c.

I was led to my first experiments, by considering how disagreeable and offensive to our olfactory nerves, the effluvia emitted by a bush of green elder leaves, are, and from thence reasoning how much more so they must be to those of a butterfly, which I consider as being as much superior to us in delicacy, as inferior in size. Accordingly, I took some twigs of young elder, and with them whipped some cabbage plants well, but not so as to hurt them, just as the butterfly first appeared. From which time, for these two summers, though the butterflies would hover and flutter round them like sylphs, yet I could never see one light, nor was there I believe, a single caterpillar blown after the plants were whipped, though an adjoining bed was infested as usual. Considering blights as chiefly occasioned by small flies and minute insects, whose organs are proportionably finer than the former, I whipped the limbs of a plumb tree, as high as I could reach; the leaves of which were preserved green and flourishing, while those not six inches, higher, were blighted and full of worms. Some of these I afterwards restored, by whipping and tying up elder among them. This tree was in full bloom at the time of whipping, which was much too late, as it should have been done once or twice, before the blossom appeared. I conclude, that if a strong infusion of elder was made in a tub of water, and then sprinkled over the tree once every week or fortnight, by a hand engine, it would answer every purpose that could be wished, without any risk to blossoms or fruit.

What the farmers call the yellows in wheat, and which they consider a kind of mildew, is in fact occasioned by a small yellow fly with blue wings, about the size of a gnat. Its eggs are almost invisible to the naked eye, but being seen through a pocket microscope, it appears a large yellow maggot, of the color and gloss of amber, and is so prolific, that I have distinctly counted 41 living yellow maggots in the husk of one single grain of wheat, a number sufficient to destroy the whole ear. The following experiment was tried when the grain was getting into fine blossom—sooner would have been better. At day-break, two hands took two bushes of elder, and went on each side of the ridge from end to end, and back again, drawing the elder over the ears of wheat, of such fields as were not too far advanced in blossoming. I conceived, that the disagreeable effluvia of the elder, would effectually prevent those flies from pitching in so noxious a situation; nor was I disappointed, for I am firmly persuaded no flies pitched or blowed on the wheat after it had been so struck. But I had the mortification of observing the flies (the evening before it was struck) already on the grain, (6, 7 or 8 on a single ear) so that what damage occured, was done before the operation took place, for on subsequent examination, I found the wheat which had been struck, pretty free from the yellows, very much more so than what was not struck. I have therefore no doubt, the grain would have been untouched, had the operation been performed sooner. If so, simple as the process is, it promises fair to preserve large crops, as the small insects are the crop's greatest enemy. One of these yellow flies laid at least 8 or 10 eggs on my thumb, only while carrying it across 3 or 4 ridges, as appeared on viewing it with a pocket microscope.

Beds of turnips are frequently destroyed when young, by some insects, either flies or fleas. This I flatter myself may be effectually prevented, by having an elder bush spread so as to cover about the breadth of a ridge, and drawn once forward and backward, over the young turnips. I am confirmed in this idea by having struck an elder bush over a bed of young cauliflower plants, which had begun to be bitten, but after that operation, it remained untouched. In support of my opinion, I will mention the following fact, from very creditable information. Some years ago the country was so infested with cock-chaffers, or oak webs, that in considerable districts they eat up every green thing, but elder, which alone remained green and unhurt. Reflecting on these circumstances, a thought suggested itself to me, whether the elder, now esteemed offensive,

may not at a future day be seen planted, with and entwining its branches among fruit trees, in order to preserve the fruit from insects; and whether the same means may not be extended to a greater variety of cases, in the preservation of the vegetable kingdom. The dwarf elder, I apprehend, emits more offensive effluvia than common elder, therefore must be preferable. As the Hessian insect deposites its eggs when the wheat is small, perhaps the best method would be to make a strong infusion of elder in water, and sprinkle it over the ridges with a watering pot. *Quere*—Whether *poke-weed* and *henbane* do not contain qualities as noxious to insects, and may not be used with as great prospect of success as elder?

Your obedient servant,

C. G.*******.

CHARCOAL FOR HOGS.

I will give you my experience and opinion, upon the manner of keeping hogs in health while they are fattening. I have lost in years back a great many hogs—had others sick and languishing, so that they would not fatten; and been obliged to turn them out of my pen. I always observed that when I did so, they either died immediately, or if they lived a few days, got well. I always observed too that my hogs in the pen would eat and chew with eagerness, all hard substances, such as peach stones, bones, and even small stones; and that they were particularly fond of coals, such as had by accident got from the fire into the feed. I had also observed, that whenever I let a sick hog out of the pen, he would go to eating such things, and even the ground itself. I then thought of trying the experiment, and collected a peck of coals from my ashes and put them into my pen. They were immediately devoured. I gave them more, until my hogs had eaten at least two quarts each. I thought it did them good, and continued to supply them daily with them. I have since that time (two years ago) fattened more than fifty hogs, and never had a sick one, nor one whose pork has been measely or affected with any disease. I believe it to be an affectual remedy, for a very serious difficulty with farmers. My neighbors to whom I have communicated my plan, have tried it with the same success, and if you please, you may give it publicity in your paper.—*P. Far*

LEXINGTON, Ky., Sept. 14.

DURHAM CATTLE.—There have been two extensive sales of Short-horned Durham Cattle in this neighborhood, within a week past. The first, the stock of MASLIN SMITH, Esq., and the stock of SAMUEL SMITH, Esq., deceased. The prices for which the animals were struck off, were such as to show that the demand for this kind of stock is greatly on the increase. We regret that we have not been able to obtain catalogues of these sales, so as to give them to our readers in full, with the price for which each animal sold. This we hope to do hereafter. As examples, however, of the estimation in which the Durham cattle of this county are held, we will mention, that at the sale of SAM'L. SMITH, a cow and sucking calf sold for *twenty-one hundred dollars*. Another at *thirteen hundred and fifty dollars*; others at $1200, $1000, &c. The whole stock of SAMUEL SMITH sold for between $20,000 and $30,000.—*Intelligencer.*

SELECTION OF SEED WHEAT.

Richmond, Ky., August 9th, 1838.

To the Editor of the Franklin Farmer:

SIR—Having derived much valuable information from your interesting paper, I feel the injunction upon me, as an imperfect *quid pro quo* to communicate to you the subjoined manner of selecting seed wheat.

Many years ago, a farmer in this quarter, who cultivated the same variety of wheat and in the same manner as did his neighbors, was known to have a yield of a third more to the acre. Upon inquiry as to the cause, the unsatisfactory answer was given—"I sow barrel seed."—The neighbors purchased of him their seed wheat, and the first year had a yield equal to his; but selecting their seed as formerly, the second and third crops were but little, if any better, than was raised by them previous to their purchase of seed.—They again purchased, and their fourth crop was equal to the first, but their fifth and sixth were like their second and third. How to solve this apparent mystery, caused many a neighborhood consultation. It was ultimately discovered, however, and was as follows:

When you are ready to get out your wheat, place a barrel or box in your stack yard, open at one end; before you pass the bundle to the treading floor, give it one or two strokes across the open end of the barrel or box, by which the best matured grains will shatter off; then winnow and use for seed.

Thus selected it will be far preferable to the seed prepared by running it through a coarse seive; for it is known to every farmer, that many of the largest grains of both wheat and rye are unripe or diseased, yet they do not shatter out as easily as those perfectly ripe. W. C. G.

From the Farmers' Cabinet.

THEORY.

No man, howevery much he may repudiate theory, engages in any work without first having the theory of it established in his mind. Theory precedes practice as thought precedes action. One farmer spreads his manure a long time before he ploughs it in; another ploughs it under as it is spread, and another uses it as a top-dressing, while some are particular as to the time of the moon, when dung is put on the soil. Each has his theory and acts agreeably to it, and his success is not dependent on his having *no theory* at all, but on his theory being in accordance with sound reason; for there is always a reason why one way of doing a thing is better than another. Some allege that every thing that is printed about agriculture is mere theory, and therefore to be disregarded; those who entertain this opinion certainly maintain a very unsound *theory*, and the sooner they sift all the knowledge they possess and have gained by their own individual and unaided exertions, from what they have obtained by reading and conversation with others, the sooner they will ascertain the sum total of their *ignorance*, which it is expected will so alarm them that they will see the necessity of rubbing some of the roughest of it off. O.

From the Farmers' Cabinet.

SALT YOUR STOCK, AND NEVER BE WITHOUT A STOCK OF SALT.

Every person is sensible of the good effect of salt on the human system; we know how unwholesome and unpalatable fresh meat and vegetables are without it. It was held by the ancients in the highest estimation. We also know the avidity with which animals in a wild state seek the salt licks, and the difficulties and dangers they will encounter to reach them; this cannot arise from accident or caprice, but from a powerful instinct, which, beyond controul, compels them to seek, at all risks, that which is salubrious.

Horses, cattle, and sheep should be regularly supplied with salt at stated intervals at all seasons of the year, without stint. It promotes their health and improves their condition, and when they become habituated to its frequent use, there is no danger of their taking such a quantity of it as to do them injury. It promotes digestion, and destroys worms in the stomach and alimentary canal. Horses that are regularly and copiously salted seldom or never are troubled with botts or cholic, and experience has proved that it is as extensively useful to cattle and sheep.

All good farmers salt their animals, but with many it is not done with sufficient regularity, and there are many lazy, careless persons that pass under the denomination of farmers, though they are not worthy of such an honorable designation, who wholly neglect the important duty of furnishing their stock with salt, to their great loss and shame, and for such this is written,

"That what they find for their hands to do, they may do quickly."

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From the Yankee Farmer.

DRAINING.

The time is not far distant when much of our lowest lands now waste, the swamps, bogs, marshes and miry places overflowed with water, will be reclaimed, and converted into the richest and most productive soils under cultivation. In some of the longest settled sections of the country, farmers are beginning to cultivate such lands, and find their profit in so doing. In the first settlement of the country, the elevated or high lands are first cleared. The soil being rendered fertile by the accumulation for ages of vegetable matter, the clearing and draining the low lands is generally postponed until the enhanced value of land, and the wants of an increasing population make it the farmer's interest to convert the dismal swamps into verdant fields. The next step, after clearing, is draining off the redundant waters. This is often found to be more formidable in anticipation than in practice. By the aid of a water level, to determine the place of the greatest descent, an outlet may generally be made without great labor and expense. A considerable portion of many farms lies useless by being overflowered [illegible] wet. We frequently perceive portions covered with various kinds of low bushes unfit for fuel. In the course of time the vegetable matter has been washed from the higher lands and hills, and deposited in the bogs, swamps and vallies below. This matter, in its decomposed state, constitutes the unctuous black loam or mud, mixed, more or less, with clay or sand. As it supplies the food, which plants require, these low lands, when reclaimed, are the richest parts of a farm. The potatoe flourishes best in such soils, when drained; and experience will probably prove that corn, wheat and various other kinds of vegetables may also be grown in low loamy soils to very great advantage. But draining would be profitable if for no other purpose than to ena-

ble the farmer to obtain a plentiful supply of mud to make the compost manure, in order to restore the fertility of his lands which have become exhausted by long cropping or otherwise. The small brooks and water course, often originating from living springs in the high parts of farms, overflow and render waste much land below, which otherwise would be valuable, and in their natural descent empty into the bogs, swamps, &c.

From the Farmers' Cabinet.

FARMERS' MICROSCOPE.

SIR.—Perhaps there are many of my brother farmers who do not know that they have, in the telescope, or common spy-glass an excellent microscope also. It is but to screw off the small object glass, apply it close to the eye, and bring any object within the range of its proper focus, and they will be surprised and gratified with the result. To those, who, like myself, fond of looking into things, such an instrument will prove a very pleasant walking companion. I never leave home without it, and am often struck with astonishment at the extreme beauty which I find displayed in the formation of the most common flower, or even weed, the appearance of which, without its aid, was any thing but interesting. In botancial and geological researches, this little, simple pocket apparatus is of the greatest service; and the facility with which it can be removed and replaced, is not the smallest of its recommendations. J. P.

RATS IN GRAIN.

How to prevent the ravages of rats in grain after it is housed, has been an enquiry of long standing. We can never exterminate them to such a degree as not to apprehend their incursions, for a host of these troublesome visiters will often make their appearance when we least expect them. Instinct points the way where that provision best suited to their nature is found most plentiful. We have often found when we went to thrash, our oats out and cleaned them, and the straw rendered unfit for any purpose whatever, event the subservient one of littler.

But every evil has a cure; and I have found, "common elder" to be a common preventive, and have tested its properties as an anti-rat application. When the grain is to be packed away, I scatter a few of the young branches over every layer of bundles, being mindful to have them in greatest abundance on the edges of the pile. The drying of the twigs will give the grain an odor not relished by the vermin—which scent in no wise detracts from the quality of the straw for horses, as it makes no sort of difference with them. I have tried it successfully, a number of years, in wheat, oats and corn.—*Huntington Gaz.*

SUGAR FROM BEETS.—The production of Beet Sugar has become so extensive in France that the colonial product is no longer able to stand without injury a competition with it, under the existing impost, and the Chamber of Commerce of Havre has accordingly addressed a strong remonstrance to the Government against the continuance of the duty on the colonial article. It calls for a reduction of the duty, without which the colonial sugar cannot maintain the competition with indigenous (beet-root) sugar in the markets of France. The Chambers of Bordeaux and Nantes have also sent remonstrances to the Ministry against the system which it seems inclined to adopt with respect to this article.—*Nat Int.*

SOUR KROUT.—This salted cabbage, much used in Germany, is an excellent and wholesome article of diet, and a cheap and effectual preparation for long keeping. It may not be agreeable to an untaught palate but is much liked by all accustomed to use it, and the relish is as easily acquired as that for mustard, tomatoes, pickles, and a hundred other things that we learn to love in order to enlarge the circle of our enjoyments. Every new taste is a new pleasure. The following is the mode of preparation

Shred cabbage fine, and lay it in a barrel —first a sprinkle of fine salt, then a layer of a few inches of cabbage, and so on alternately until the barrel is filled, beating it down soundly with a heavy maul or pestle at every layer.

Eighty to one hundred cabbages and three pints or two quarts of salt will fill a barrel. Cover it with a head that will just pass down within the barrel, on which lay heavy weights. Some pour on the whole, after filling, a gallon or two of strong brine. After some time softening and fermenting, it will be fit for use. It may be boiled with pork, or fried.

SEASON FOR PLOUGHING.—It is better to plough land in the fall, which is composed in part of clay, or what is called a stiff, soil laying it as light as possible, so as to expose it to the action of frost, which will pulverize and subdue it, and insects will then be destroyed by exposure to the rigors of winter *Yankee Farmer.*

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From the Yankee Farmer.

DRAINING.

The time is not far distant when much of our lowest lands now waste, the swamps, bogs, marshes and miry places overflowed with water, will be reclaimed, and converted into the richest and most productive soils under cultivation. In some of the longest settled sections of the country, farmers are beginning to cultivate such lands, and find their profit in so doing. In the first settlement of the country, the elevated or high lands are first cleared. The soil being rendered fertile by the accumulation for ages of vegetable matter, the clearing and draining the low lands is generally postponed until the enhanced value of land, and the wants of an increasing population make it the farmer's interest to convert the dismal swamps into verdant fields. The next step, after clearing, is draining off the redundant waters. This is often found to be more formidable in anticipation than in practice. By the aid of a water level, to determine the place of the greatest descent, an outlet may generally be made without great labor and expense. A considerable portion of many farms lies useless by being overflowered or too wet. We frequently perceive portions covered with various kinds of low bushes unfit for fuel. In the course of time the vegetable matter has been washed from the higher lands and hills, and deposited in the bogs, swamps and vallies below. This matter, in its decomposed state, constitutes the unctuous black loam or mud, mixed, more or less, with clay or sand. As it supplies the food, which plants require, these low lands, when reclaimed, are the richest parts of a farm. The potatoe flourishes best in such soils, when drained; and experience will probably prove that corn, wheat and various other kinds of vegetables may also be grown in low loamy soils to very great advantage. But draining would be profitable if for no other purpose than to ena-

ble the farmer to obtain a plentiful supply of mud to make the compost manure, in order to restore the fertility of his lands which have become exhausted by long cropping or otherwise. The small brooks and water course, often originating from living springs in the high parts of farms, overflow and render waste much land below, which otherwise would be valuable, and in their natural descent empty into the bogs, swamps, &c.

From the Farmers' Cabinet.

FARMERS' MICROSCOPE.

SIR.—Perhaps there are many of my brother farmers who do not know that they have, in the telescope, or common spy-glass an excellent microscope also. It is but to screw off the small object glass, apply it close to the eye, and bring any object within the range of its proper focus, and they will be surprised and gratified with the result. To those, who, like myself, fond of looking into things, such an instrument will prove a very pleasant walking companion. I never leave home without it, and am often struck with astonishment at the extreme beauty which I find displayed in the formation of the most common flower, or even weed, the appearance of which, without its aid, was any thing but interesting. In botancial and geological researches, this little, simple pocket apparatus is of the greatest service; and the facility with which it can be removed and replaced, is not the smallest of its recommendations. J. P.

RATS IN GRAIN.

How to prevent the ravages of rats in grain after it is housed, has been an enquiry of long standing. We can never exterminate them to such a degree as not to apprehend their incursions, for a host of these troublesome visiters will often make their appearance when we least expect them. Instinct points the way where that provision best suited to their nature is found most plentiful. We have often found when we went to thrash, our oats out and cleaned them, and the straw rendered unfit for any purpose whatever, event the subservient one of littler.

But every evil has a cure; and I have found, "common elder" to be a common preventive, and have tested its properties as an anti-rat application. When the grain is to be packed away, I scatter a few of the young branches over every layer of bundles, being mindful to have them in greatest abundance on the edges of the pile. The drying of the twigs will give the grain an odor not relished by the vermin—which scent in no wise detracts from the quality of the straw for horses, as it makes no sort of difference with them. I have tried it successfully, a number of years, in wheat, oats and corn.—*Huntington Gaz.*

SUGAR FROM BEETS.—The production of Beet Sugar has become so extensive in France that the colonial product is no longer able to stand without injury a competition with it, under the existing impost, and the Chamber of Commerce of Havre has accordingly addressed a strong remonstrance to the Government against the continuance of the duty on the colonial article. It calls for a reduction of the duty, without which the colonial sugar cannot maintain the competition with indigenous (beet-root) sugar in the markets of France. The Chambers of Bordeaux and Nantes have also sent remonstrances to the Ministry against the system which it seems inclined to adopt with respect to this article.—*Nat Int.*

SOUR KROUT.—This salted cabbage, much used in Germany, is an excellent and wholesome article of diet, and a cheap and effectual preparation for long keeping. It may not be agreeable to an untaught palate but is much liked by all accustomed to use it, and the relish is as easily acquired as that for mustard, tomatoes, pickles, and a hundred other things that we learn to love in order to enlarge the circle of our enjoyments. Every new taste is a new pleasure. The following is the mode of preparation

Shred cabbage fine, and lay it in a barrel —first a sprinkle of fine salt, then a layer of a few inches of cabbage, and so on alternately until the barrel is filled, beating it down soundly with a heavy maul or pestle at every layer.

Eighty to one hundred cabbages and three pints or two quarts of salt will fill a barrel. Cover it with a head that will just pass down within the barrel, on which lay heavy weights. Some pour on the whole, after filling, a gallon or two of strong brine. After some time softening and fermenting, it will be fit for use. It may be boiled with pork, or fried.

SEASON FOR PLOUGHING.—It is better to plough land in the fall, which is composed in part of clay, or what is called a stiff, soil laying it as light as possible, so as to expose it to the action of frost, which will pulverize and subdue it, and insects will then be destroyed by exposure to the rigors of winter *Yankee Farmer.*

EGGS AND POULTRY—USEFUL FACTS.

Among all nations, and throughout all grades of society, eggs have been a favorite food. But in all our cities, and particularly in winter, they are held at such prices that few families can afford to use them at all; and even those who are in easy circumstances, consider them too expensive for common food.

There is no need of this. Every family or nearly every family, can, with very little trouble, have eggs in plenty during the whole year; and of all the animials domesticated for the use of man, the common dunghill fowl is capable of yielding the greatest possible profit to the owner.

In the month of November, I put apart eleven hens and a cock, gave them a small chamber in a woodhouse, defended from storms, and with an opening to the south Their food, water, and lime, were placed on shelves convenient for them, with warm nests, and chalk nest-eggs in plenty. These hens continued to lay eggs through the winter.—From these eleven hens I received an average of six eggs daily during the winter; and whenever any one of them was disposed to set, viz. as soon as she began to cluck, she was separated from the others by a grated partition, and her apartment darkened; these cluckers were well attended and well fed; they could see and partially associate through their grates with the other fowls, and as soon as any one of these prisoners began to sing, she was liberated, and would very soon lay eggs. It is a pleasant recreation to feed and tend a bevy of laying hens; they may be tamed so as to follow the children, and will lay in any box.

Egg shells contain lime, and in winter, when the earth is bound with frost, or covered with snow, if lime is not provided for them, they will not lay, or, if they do, the egg must of necessity be without a shell. Old rubbish like, from old chimneys and old buildings, is proper, and only needs to be broken for them. They will often attempt to swallow pieces of lime plaster as large as walnuts.

I have often heard it said that wheat is the best grain for them, but I doubt it; they will sing over Indian corn with more animation than over any other grain. The singing hen will certainly lay eggs if she finds all things agreeable to her; but the hen is much a prude, as watchful as a weazle, and as fastidious as a hypocrite: she must, she will have secrecy and mystery about her nest; all eyes but her own must be averted; follow her or watch her, and she will forsake her nest, and stop laying; she is best pleased with a box covered at top, with a backside aperture for light, and a side door by which she can escape unseen.

A farmer may keep an hundred fowls in his barn, may suffer them to trample upon and destroy his mows of wheat and other grains and still have fewer eggs than the cottager who keeps a single dozen, who provides secret nests, chalk eggs, pounded brick, plenty of Indian corn, lime, water and gravel for them; and who takes care that his hens are not disturbed about their nests. Three chalk eggs in a nest are better than a single nest egg, and large eggs please them. I have often smiled to see them fondle round and lay into a nest of geese eggs. Pullets will commence laying earlier in life, where nests and eggs are plenty, and where other hens are cackling around them.

A dozen dunghill fowls, shut up away from other means of obtaining food, will require something more than a quart of Indian corn a day; I think fifteen bushels a year a fair provision for them. But more or less, let them always have enough by them; and after they have become habituated to find enough at all times and plenty in their little manger, they take but a few kernels at a time, except just before retiring to roost, when they will take nearly a spoon full into their crops, but just so sure as their provision comes to them scanted or irregularly, so surely they will raven up a whole crop full at a time, and will stop laying.

A single dozen fowls, properly attended, will furnish a family with more than 2,000 eggs in a year, and 100 full grown chickens for fall and winter stores. The expence of feeding the dozen fowls will not amount to eighteen bushels of corn. They may be kept in cities as well as in the country, and will do as well shut up the year round as to run at large, and a grated room, well lighted, 10 feet by 5, partitioned from any stable or other out-house, is sufficient for the dozen fowls, with their roosting place, nests and feeding troughs.

EXTRAORDINARY FECUNDITY.—There are now growing in the garden of Mr Samuel Jackson, Winsford, 11 roots of wheat, on which are 451 stems, occuping 3 yards of grounnd, or 27 square feet, being the product of one grain of common white wheat, sown about the beginning of last August; some of the stalks are more than 5 feet high.

English paper.